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THE AVERAGE NET PAID DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE EVENING LEDGER FOR APRIL WAS 118,957
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If you live outside the city raise a pig instead of a poodle and you'll find that the pen is as mighty as the sword.

"Feed the chicken on meat scraps," says a New Jersey farming expert, "and save grain." But it would be cheaper to kill the chicken.

The oratorical patriot thinks he has served his country when he raises a slogan, but he often hesitates when it comes to raising a gun.

John L. Sullivan declares the Kaiser is afraid of Roosevelt. American seems to have similar qualms, judging from the fate of the Senate's T. R. amendment.

If men in light-hearted America can be as pessimistic as some of those one meets every day, what must be the pessimism of the average man in foiled Germany, the home of pessimism?

"The East is the home of the shaker," says a Washington dispatch. As Pennsylvania holds the recruiting record, it is evident that the Government must be rating this Commonwealth as a Western State.

Naturally "flags" will be a feature of the forthcoming flower show in Rittenhouse Square. In less patriotic times it is permissible to call these pretty plants frisks, but the more popular name must now certainly prevail.

One way of relieving the strain on wheat, which has advanced to \$3.25, should be the eating of corn bread, which, when served hot, is so delicious a dish that the wonder is that any one who once tastes it ever goes back to wheat bread again.

It is always a pleasure to fine street-cleaning contractors, but it is a costly pleasure. The \$257 the city collects from them for April derelictions is not a big enough monthly income to pay for the ravages of disease caused by dirt in the spring and summer months.

Strawberry shortcake may be eaten freely and without qualms of conscience. European ignorance of this dessert absolves us from the cruel burden of surrendering it for deportation. Any American who enlightens France or England as to the merits of this dainty should be branded as a public enemy.

On the very day that Senator Vane made a clean sweep of all the contracts for League Island Park he was fined more than \$3000 for failing to sweep clean the streets in the central part of the city. All of which shows that the clean-up qualifications of political contractors are usually directed along avenues of finance.

The Russian thieves who held a mass-meeting in Petrograd the other day and pledged themselves to turn over a new leaf plainly came to the conclusion that even the high cost of virtuous living was preferable to identifying themselves morally with the robbers of Belgium, Serbia, Alsace, Poland, Northern France, and so on and so on.

A natural longing to hear his native tongue once more may be partly responsible for Rene Viviani's hasty departure for Canada, while Marshal Joffre does the honors of France to Boston. The average eastern Canadian is certainly to be envied his ability to comprehend in all its exquisite polish the eloquent oratory of being understood ought to be very welcome to M. Viviani after these trying weeks of applause coming in the wrong places.

On the whole, it seems a pity that the French envoys, if only for their own satisfaction and comfort, could not have visited New Orleans. There they would have seen how much of the spirit of their origin is preserved amid the pleasantly contrasting elements of American life.

Army officers in embryo at Fort Monmouth have a good opportunity to study the battle grounds of a war in which the United States and America, now allied, fought together virtually to a standstill. The training camp is not so very far from two of the most hotly contested battles of the inconclusive War of 1812.

At the battle of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane, fought in July, 1814, some

like minor engagements compared with the tremendous conflicts of the present, but it was at Chippewa that Winfield Scott, then only a colonel, won his spurs. That his service in the Fort Niagara country was admirable training was later superbly proved in his great march from Vera Cruz to Mexico City in 1847. Any possible Scots that are in the making now at the officers' camp have at least the inspiration of appropriate historical atmosphere.

WE HAVE A FOOD DICTATOR; LET'S FIRE HIM

LEADERSHIP and control are so necessary that even pirates appoint a captain. The "boss" never seems to the average worker to do much work until the "boss" is away, and the worker has to rely entirely upon his own initiative and judgment. A government whose people are led only by persuasion and sweet reasonableness is not a government. Every one has been asked to economize in food and every one is not doing it, either because every one thinks every one else is economizing or because he thinks every one else is not. If the rest of the world is good, he can afford to be bad; if the rest of the world is bad, he might as well be bad, too. We are like blindfolded soldiers who cannot tell whether they are keeping step with each other or not. What is needed is a leader who will control the sale and the sellers of food. We do not need a food dictator, because we have one already—the speculator. To prove that we have, Mr. Hoover has only to point to the fact that the farmer did not realize \$1.30 per bushel for the 1916 wheat harvest, while the present quotation is \$3.25. This would be an outrage in peace time. It is treason during war. To sit down and watch flour mount to court panic. The situation is serious, but far from hopeless in a country so prolific in perishable substitutes for the preservable and transportable foods we are wasting. Congress has wasted time enough over the conscription of men. Less time can be spared in dallying over the conscription of food.

ALBERT AS CONSTANTINE'S HEIR

THERE are no tricks in plain and simple faith," said Roman Brutus. The spirit of his words is assuredly what moves those Allied diplomats who are turning to be considering the plan of turning over Constantinople and the Bosphorus to Belgium in the event of Germany's defeat. The unflinching faith of Belgium people may finally solve the Turkey-in-Europe problem, long provocative of so much strife. Civilization trusts Belgium. Her snow-white plume of honor is unattained. Russia's recent renunciation of territorial gains in the war significantly suggested that the old imperialistic dream of the Slavic acquisition of the Bosphorus was no more. The new idealism of the conflict, eloquently emphasized by President Wilson, almost forbids the thought of British or French occupation of the straits. To hold out such a prize as a fruit of victory to these two nations which now disclaim selfish motives is to act on the German principle of greed. And yet, as the Turk must be driven from Europe, certainly some one of the sister nations of democracy and civilization must control the ancient city of the Byzantine Caesars. The Balkan lands cannot be considered. Were any one of them given power over the Bosphorus a new source of friction in the Near East would be inevitably created. From Americans this means of rewarding the valiant little kingdom, whose righteous motives in the war cannot be questioned, would remove many disquieting doubts. The Constantinian question has been making us uncomfortable. It seemed wholly out of key with our aims in the fray. But largely because of the outrage against Belgium we entered Armenia, when the orange, yellow and black of King Albert's dandiest plumes flew over the city of Constantinople, Americans can surely honor that unquelled emblem without misgiving, but with joy and pride.

WORKING UP THE FARM MOVEMENT

On the day Chairman Kitchin reported his great tax bill the chairman of the Agricultural Committee, Mr. Lever of South Carolina, called up his \$18,000,000 bill, providing for a survey of the farms of the United States. It was the first of several of the war bills intended to boost the American farm in connection with the reported food scarcity. It was admitted in debate that, while the Department of Agriculture now employs about 17,000 men and women gathering information about the farm and otherwise developing it, the new bill would provide about 7000 more places at salaries approaching \$2500 per annum. The exclusion of farm labor from conscription for fighting purposes necessarily enters into a discussion of this kind, and the city man in Congress may be pardoned for inquiring whether the present Administration means to draw chiefly upon the cities for its fighting men and for its taxes, in order that those who flock to the farm service at good Government salaries may avoid the battlefield. Whether such a suggestion is justifiable or not, the rural districts are sufficiently strong in both legislative bodies to drive a good bargain at this critical time with all those who, seeing a new light, are willing to engage in a "back-to-the-farm" movement.

KEEP THE T. R. SPIRIT—BUT ONLY AS A SPIRIT

THE value of being unique lies in being the only one of your kind. We can be so thankful for having one Roosevelt that it is an easy compliment to tell him that we are equally thankful for having only one.

Our Allies have applauded the righteous indignation and fervent call to arms that the name Roosevelt means abroad. But if we had had a thousand Roosevelts we would have had a volunteer army, and the applause would soon have died down. We would have had not much more than those "western cowboys and eastern sports" that Colonel Harvey poked fun at. Now we will have them, and in addition a great number of engineers and other specialists and a host of carefully prepared and earnest fighters who never saw the plains or the inside of a club.

There are 200,000 men who say they will follow Roosevelt anywhere, but to increase that number to 1,000,000 by the Roosevelt volunteering plan would have been to run the risk of dislocating industry, business, banking and everything else that can be affected by indiscriminate recruiting. The paradox of the situation was that Roosevelt was the first man to demand conscription and the last man to abandon the volunteer idea. He has the faculty of grasping both horns of the dilemma at once without getting gored. Some men are for conscription because Roosevelt is for it. Some are for volunteerism because Roosevelt is for it. He was everywhere at once; one saw him busy getting up steam in the boiler room, only to go up on deck to see, with a shock, that the Colonel was on the bridge at the helm at the same time. He was so constantly visible that he became invisible.

But this is precisely why the Colonel's spirit is so valuable an American asset, because it always remains spiritual. Many people do vote for good government because the Colonel smashed American politics and his own political career talking about good government. They are really more practical about winning the war because the Colonel was so eager to win that he would not be practical about it.

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VERDICT IN THE GREAT TAX CASE

Findings of the Ways and Means Committee Must Pass the Criticism of Congress

WASHINGTON, May 12. AFTER eight days in a legislative "jury room," the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives brought in a verdict this week. It assessed damages in favor of the Government in the sum of \$1,800,000,000, which is the largest amount ever charged against the people of the United States in a single case. It would be idle to say the jury had no difficulty in reaching its conclusions. The jury had the largest job ever tackled by any similar body of men, and it had no precedents to guide it. It labored hard to convince itself that its verdict was just, but having been charged by the presiding judge, in this case the President of the United States, to find a fixed amount for the Government use, it did so with about as much enthusiasm as the average jury brings in a verdict of murder in the first degree. But the jury knew that there would be an appeal from its verdict to the House of Representatives and from the House of Representatives to the Senate, and that its verdict was not final after all.

WHAT THE VERDICT MEANS

The verdict of this legislative jury was not made known definitely until Thursday, but up to that time, due to the usual leaks that scatter piecemeal information from the legislative jury room, enough was known about the discussions of the jury to make the telegraph wires hot with protests from every corner of the United States. Despite all these, however, and notwithstanding numerous hurry-up calls from excited business men who came rushing to Washington, the jury stuck to its job and unloaded its work upon the House. It was not altogether a unanimous verdict, although the majority was so strong as to make futile a single vote in opposition to the bill. The report accompanying the verdict told the story of the mental and financial labors of the twenty-three men of the Ways and Means Committee, who understood full well that their action, even though dictated by the war necessities set forth by the President and the Secretary of the Treasury, would mean a thousand explanations to the vast number of constituents who would be directly affected.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BURDEN

This article is not written to justify the bill, nor even to sympathize with the members of Congress whose duty it was to prepare it. The bill is bad enough, but it had to be. The committee was obliged to show the ways and means of raising the sum needed by the President to act the war with Germany started. Neither is this article intended to approve in toto the manner in which the distribution of taxes is to be made. The bill is finally reported in the newspapers tells that story in part. What this article is intended to convey is the suggestion that the bill takes good care that the raw products of the country which are very expensive in the large cities are not burdened with taxes, while all industries engaged in the fabrication of raw products are severely taxed. This is due, largely, to geographical conditions and to the strength of the voting power from agricultural sections. There was no hesitation in levying taxes upon business and industrial enterprises wherever found, or even upon success. But raw materials, such as cotton and grain, or other commodities which are now bringing high prices, were treated with extreme consideration. The inclusion of a 10 per cent horizontal tariff rate on imports now entered free and on dutiable imports was probably the most general of the paragraphs of the bill as related to the entire population.

PROBABLY A SUPER-SUB

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Mysterious Occupations

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North Carolina's Big Hand

The "Tar Heel State," it is worth mentioning, is playing a big hand in present-day legislation. The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, who drafted the \$1,800,000,000 tax bill, is Claude Kitchin, of North Carolina. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, which will have charge of the bill on the Senate side, is Furnifold McL. Simmons, of North Carolina. The chairman of the House Committee on Rules is Mr. Poy, of North Carolina, and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules is Senator Overman, of North Carolina.

If drastic action becomes necessary in either House, North Carolina, through the Rules Committee, is in a fine position to do business with the rest of the country. In any event, when the greatest tax measure of history goes into conference between the Senate and the House, Senator Simmons and Mr. Kitchin, both of North Carolina, will be the leading conferees. The great State of Pennsylvania, which will have to pay so large a proportion of all the taxes agreed upon under these auspices, will have a powerful representative on the Conference Committee in Senator Penrose, the ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. And as the House gets through with its work, it is fair to presume that Senator Penrose, being the Pennsylvania member of what may be termed the "Appellate Tax Court," will have his hands full.

Dear Boss—A new store at Sixteenth and Arch streets displays the following sign in each window: Stationary Cigars. This is possibly an attempt to distinguish them from the well-known "Excursion Cigars" of which, you know, one side is smoked going up and the other coming back. E. V. W.

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Tom Daly's Column

WHAT THEY WANT
The baby wants the soaring moon,
The Kaiser wants the earth;
The Czar would like his Kingdom back,
The Serbs a quiet hearth,
The British want the German goat,
And seek it in its haunt,
But no one knows for certain what
The heck the Irish want.

The Russians want a temperate port,
The Japanese want US;
Italia wants Trentino and
The Greeks would like to cuss.
The pacifists they want a jolt,
The "willful men" a licking,
But what is this mysterious boon
For which old Ireland's kicking?

The French they want Alsace-Lorraine
To be of their own nation;
Brave Belgium wants her country back—
The Turks want Jungtation.
But though we search the skies and seas,
And question till we're gant,
There's no one knows for certain what
The heck the Irish want! C. H. T.

Will some inglorious, but not be any manner of means mute, Milton arise upon his two feet and sit upon this Sassenach?

A Letter

(sent to dram. critic by the lady's manager.)
The famous Jewish tragedienne Malvine Lohel in Arch Street Theatre in the Sale-lady Malvine Lohel has returned from a six months' engagement from Buenos Aires. Argentina while Malvine Lohel played her repertoire all the papers was full with enthusiastic critics about Malvine Lohel, she thrived in New York Malvine Lohel played in three languages her famous Rolles Mandam X and Camille she played in German English and Spanish, how Malvine Lohel makes a tour all over the United States with her latest hit Jacob Gene in the Sale-lady and Mad X.

ABOUT twenty years ago, when the old Arch Street first became a Yiddish theatre, we, prowling around in search of something to write about, presented ourselves at the highest-priced door. We showed our police card. The doorman said, "Vare's your ticket?" We started to explain, but he laid a broad palm on our chest protector and shunted us back, meantime calling to an usher, "Hey, Jake, tell der boss here a feller wants in fur nothink." The boss came a-running, and we could have told what he'd be like before we saw the headlights flashing in his shirt-front. He had the fur-lined overcoat and the high hat, too. He was most hospitable when he was told what we had in our mind to do and Jake who appointed our special guide, philosopher and friend. He interpreted the play for us, bit by bit, as it progressed upon the stage. The thing was a classic and we set it down with care, and we wrote our story with more than ordinary joy in our work. But we have no copy of it; it is a lost sunset.

ODDITIES

The price of coal is now so high
That poor folks can't afford to buy;
Yet in the coal yards every day
The coolmen give their coal a wish.

Please answer this: Are birds deaf?
They don't exhort or "amen" shout;
And yet I heard somebody say
That "the eagle is a bird of prey."

Who made the first shoe in the past
Was after him who made the last,
Because the first could never be
Until the last was made, you see.

The ocean's waters, so they say,
Both come and go each night and day,
But never very far they go;
The rise and fall are tide, you know.

IT SURELY did look at one time as if Clean-up Week would get by without a notice in this column, but here, at the last minute, comes this: The youngster brought home a composition on "Clean-up Week," and gleefully showed me that it was marked "Excellent." Why not? Look at the first sentence: "Our Mayor gave the people \$1000 to clean up the streets and the allies." GIMP.

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"SHOO!"



MYSTERY OF THE SILVER CASKET

It Contained Incriminating Letters Purporting to Be Written by Mary, Queen of Scots—She Said They Were Forgeries. Unsolved Problem of Her Guilt

By JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS

"FAIRWELL, France, farewell! I shall never see thee more!" A beautiful girl of nineteen, encoached upon a couch, wistfully viewed the French coast from the deck of a vessel which was bearing her back to her native Scotland. She was Mary Stuart, who, upon the death of her father, James V, had been crowned Queen of Scots when a child of only ten months, and who, after having been specially educated in France for a marriage with the Dauphin, had married that prince-ling when she was only sixteen. A year later her husband had ascended the French throne, but her reign as Queen of France had in another year been cut short by his untimely death. And now this spirited girl, still in her teens, was both Dowager Queen of the French and reigning Queen of Scotland. The depression which Queen Mary suffered on seeing her beloved France fade from her sight was a shadow cast upon her by coming events. Immediately upon landing in Scotland she became involved in quarrels with her people because of her adherence to the Catholic faith, in which she had been reared. And she was drawn into a dispute with her cousin, Queen Elizabeth of England, whose legitimacy was disputed and whose throne was claimed by a German aeroplane, being the first occasion in the war that a German submarine has flown over that city.

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What Do You Know?

Queries of general interest will be answered in this column. For questions the answers to which every well-informed person should know, are asked daily.

QUIZ

- 1. About how many American men will be required to register for selective draft?
2. Correct the phrase "between you and I."
3. The State Department reports 177 American soldiers in Germany. How many were they captured?
4. The Madeline is a noted building. What and where is it?
5. What is an itinerant fisher?
6. "Bill" Nye was the name of a well-known special sign of joy in the liturgy with American. Identify the two.
7. Who is Benjamin Tappan?
8. Pronounce "seamy."
9. What is an antrophoid ape?
10. Who is H. Rider Haggard?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. The Yellowstone National Park lies mostly in Wyoming. It extends into Idaho and Montana.
2. Haddon VII is king of Norway.
3. A triple-gun turret is a turret mounting three guns.
4. Zebruce, a Belgian seaport town, is a German naval base for operations against England.
5. Root crops are crops such as potatoes, beets, and less than fifty-one years old will be subject to draft, according to an agreement reached between the House of Representatives and the Senate and House of Representatives.
6. Astigmatism is indistinct vision caused by imperfect focusing of the eyes.
7. Zionism is a movement to have Palestine, the Holy Land, transferred to the Jewish race as a self-governing nation.
8. Emilio Aguinaldo led the Filipino insurrection against the United States after the Spanish-American war, purchased by this country from Spain.
9. A contract is an agreement or contract as to which is a collision or blow.

Hebrew Citizens

E. L.—Mi-Careme, or mid-Leit, is marked by the fourth Sunday in Lent, or, strictly speaking, by the Thursday preceding it. This Sunday is called Laetare Sunday, from the words of the mass for that day, "Laetare Jerusalem"—"Rejoice, O Jerusalem." The Catholic Church permits special signs of joy in the liturgy with the object of encouraging the people to persevere for the remainder of the season of penance; for instance, flowers are allowed on the altar, and rose-colored, instead of purple, vestments may be worn. But there is no relaxation of the fast.

Boy Scouts

E. R. A.—The Boy Scouts of America organization is strictly nonmilitary. For efficiency it has adopted a military type of uniform for the boys, but the semblance to militarism ends there. Boy Scouts often are confused with members of other organizations, military in character, which include the manual of arms. In lieu of a gun the Boy Scout carries a long staff, which is used for a variety of purposes. The object of the Boy Scout movement is to encourage civic and social betterment, to person health, patriotism and morality. A variety of courses of outdoor and indoor study are offered, with merit badges as incentives for excellence.

"Between 21 and 31"

D. F. F.—(a) The phrases "between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one years" and "between the ages of twenty-one and thirty years, inclusive," have exactly the same meaning. They mean ages more than twenty-one years and less than thirty-one years. "Inclusive" after "thirty years" means more than thirty and less than thirty-one years. (b) Every man who has passed his twenty-first birthday but who has not reached his thirty-first birthday will be liable for military service under the selective draft plan.

Niagara Falls

R. T.—The city of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has a population of about 35,000.